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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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7055	7590	09/13/2006	EXAMINER	
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C. 1950 ROLAND CLARKE PLACE RESTON, VA 20191			HAGEMAN, MARK	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3653	

DATE MAILED: 09/13/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/630,940	HANSON ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Mark Hageman	3653	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 June 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>6-7-2006</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

1. Claim 6 recites the limitation "the assigned output group" line 2-3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. In claim 1 "assigned output groups" are mentioned but the singular group does not appear.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1 – 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over De Leo et al., referred to as the reference, in view of US 2002/0104782 to DeWitt et al. The reference discloses a plurality of input feeding devices (F_1 , F_2) each randomly receiving product from a stream of product; a plurality of output groups (W_a , W_b) each having a plurality of output bins; and a control system having a mode (Fig. 1a) which constrains the input feeding devices to (i) feeding non-rejected product to output bins of

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assigned output groups of the plurality of output groups associated with a corresponding one of the plurality of input feeding devices (col 3, lines 10+; col 5, lines 10+). De Leo does not disclose (ii) feeding rejected product to at least one output bin of the plurality of output bins in a single group accessible to any of the plurality of input feeders. De Witt discloses (ii) feeding rejected product to at least one output bin (250) of the plurality of output bins in a single group accessible to any of the plurality of input feeders (460) for the purpose of separating items which have been misread or partially read from those that have been properly processed (para 105).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to have modified De Leo to include, feeding rejected product to at least one output bin (250) of the plurality of output bins in a single group accessible to any of the plurality of input feeders, as taught by DeWitt, for the purpose of separating items which have been misread or partially read from those that have been properly processed (para 105).

4. With regards to claim 2, DeWitt further discloses each of the plurality of input feeding devices (460) directs the rejected product from the stream of product to the at least one output bin (250) in the single group based on at least one of misreading or non-reading of a code associated with the rejected product and an operator or machine error (para 105), for the purpose of separating items which have been misread or partially read from those that have been properly processed (para 105).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of

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applicant's invention to have modified De Leo to include, each of the plurality of input feeding devices (460) directs the rejected product from the stream of product to the at least one output bin (250) in the single group based on at least one of misreading or non-reading of a code associated with the rejected product and an operator or machine error, as taught by DeWitt, for the purpose of separating items which have been misread or partially read from those that have been properly processed (para 105).

5. With regards to claim 3, the reference further discloses a number of the plurality of input feeding devices equals a number of the plurality of output groups (col. 3, lines 10+; col. 5, lines 10+).

6. With regards to claim 4, DeWitt further discloses the at least one output bin is a single reject output bin (250).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to have modified De Leo to include, the at least one output bin is a single reject output bin (250), as taught by DeWitt, for the purpose of separating items which have been misread or partially read from those that have been properly processed (para 105).

7. With regards to claim 5, the combination of references further inherently discloses the single reject output bin increases a capacity of processing points for sequencing the product during a second pass phase in the plurality of output groups. A reject bin inherently increases the capacity of the apparatus, as undeliverable mail is removed from the system, thus freeing up capacity.

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8. With regards to claim 6, DeWitt further discloses the single reject output bin is provided in a separate output group from the plurality of output groups (para 98 lines 13-14). The reject bin (250) is a separate entity from the stacker (300) and therefore the reject bin is inherently in a separate output group.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to have modified De Leo to include, the single reject output bin is provided in a separate output group from the plurality of output groups, as taught by DeWitt, for the purpose of separating items which have been misread or partially read from those that have been properly processed (para 105).

9. With regards to claim 7, the reference further discloses the control system assigns each input feeding 4 device to a respective one of the assigned output groups of the plurality of output group for feeding the non-rejected product during a second pass phase (Fig. 1b; col. 3, lines 10+; col. 5, lines 10+).

10. With regards to claim 8, the reference further discloses the control system constrains each input feeding device to the at least one output bin for feeding the rejected product during the second pass phase (col. 3, lines 10+; col. 5, lines 10+).

11. With regards to claim 9, the reference further discloses the control system assigns each of the assigned output groups to a designated number of routes (col. 3, lines 10+; col. 5, lines 10+).

12. With regards to claim 10, the reference further discloses the plurality of input feeding devices is at least two input feeding devices (col. 3, lines 10+; col. 5, lines 10+).

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13. With regards to claim 11, the reference further discloses the plurality of input feeding devices is four input feeding devices and the plurality of output groups is equal to a number of the plurality of input feeding devices (col. 3, lines 10+; col. 5, lines 10+).

14. With regards to claim 12, the reference further discloses the control system provides the plurality of input feeding devices access to all of the plurality of output groups during a first pass phase of sorting the products (col. 3, lines 10+; col. 5, lines 10+).

15. With regards to claim 13, the reference further discloses the plurality of input feeding devices is equal to a number of the plurality of output groups (col. 3, lines 10+; col. 5, lines 10+).

16. With regards to claim 14, the reference further discloses the product is mail pieces (col. 3, lines 10+; col. 5, lines 10+).

17. With regards to claim 15, the reference further discloses providing a plurality of product from a stream of product to any of a plurality of input devices. feeding, in a first pass phase, each product of the plurality of product to output bins based on a code associated with each product of the plurality of product; assigning each input device of the plurality of input devices to a specific output group of the plurality of output groups for a second pass phase; feeding, in the second pass phase, non-rejected product of the plurality of product to the output bins of the specific output group assigned to the each input device which is feeding the non-rejected product (col. 3, lines 10+; col. 5, lines 10+). De Leo does not disclose feeding rejected product of the plurality of product to an output bin common and accessible to any of the input devices. DeWitt discloses

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feeding rejected product of the plurality of product to an output bin (250) common and accessible to any of the input devices (260 and para 105) for the purpose of separating items which have been misread or partially read from those that have been properly processed (para 105).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to have modified De Leo to include, feeding rejected product of the plurality of product to an output bin (250) common and accessible to any of the input devices, as taught by DeWitt, for the purpose of separating items which have been misread or partially read from those that have been properly processed (para 105).

18. With regards to claim 16, DeWitt further discloses the rejected product is based on one of a misreading or non-reading of a code associated with the rejected product and an operator error (para 105).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to have modified De Leo to include, the rejected product is based on one of a misreading or non-reading of a code associated with the rejected product and an operator error, as taught by DeWitt, for the purpose of separating items which have been misread or partially read from those that have been properly processed (para 105).

19. With regards to claim 17, DeWitt further discloses the rejected products are fed by each input device of the plurality of input devices (460) to the commonly accessible output bin (250 and para 105) for the purpose of separating items which have been misread or partially read from those that have been properly processed (para 105).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to have modified De Leo to include, the rejected products are fed by each input device of the plurality of input devices (460) to the commonly accessible output bin, as taught by DeWitt, for the purpose of separating items which have been misread or partially read from those that have been properly processed (para 105).

20. With regards to claim 18, the reference further discloses the step of determining whether the product is going through a first pass phase or a second pass phase and adjusting a control system between a first mode of operation and a second mode of operation, respectively (col. 3, lines 10+; col. 5, lines 10+).

21. With regards to claim 19, DeWitt further discloses the commonly accessible output bin (250) is one of the output bins (250, 300) of the specific output group and the any of the input devices are all of the input devices for the purpose of separating items which have been misread or partially read from those that have been properly processed (para 105).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to have modified De Leo to include, the commonly accessible output bin (250) is one of the output bins (250, 300) of the specific output group and the any of the input devices are all of the input devices, as taught by DeWitt, for the purpose of separating items which have been misread or partially read from those that have been properly processed (para 105).

22. With regards to claim 20, the reference further discloses the product is mail pieces (col. 3, lines 10+; col. 5, lines 10+).

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23. With regards to claim 21, the reference further discloses means for providing a plurality of product from a stream of product; means for feeding each product of the plurality of product to output bins based on a code in a first pass phase and second pass phase; means for assigning each feeding means to a specific output group of the plurality of output groups for the second pass phase; means for constraining, in the second pass phase, non-rejected product of the plurality of product to the output bins of the specific output group assigned to the each feeding means which is feeding the non-rejected product (col. 3, lines 10+; col. 5, lines 10+). De Leo does not disclose means for permitting rejected product of the plurality of product to an output bin common and accessible to any of the feeding means. DeWitt discloses disclose means for permitting rejected product of the plurality of product to an output bin (250) common and accessible to any of the feeding means (460 and para 105) for the purpose of separating items which have been misread or partially read from those that have been properly processed (para 105).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to have modified De Leo to include, means for permitting rejected product of the plurality of product to an output bin (250) common and accessible to any of the feeding means, as taught by DeWitt, for the purpose of separating items which have been misread or partially read from those that have been properly processed (para 105).

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24. With regards to claim 22, the reference further discloses at least the means for constraining and the means for permitting is a control system operable in a first mode of operation and a second mode of operation (col. 3, lines 10+; col. 5, lines 10+).

25. With regards to claim 23, the reference further discloses the product is mail pieces (col. 3, lines 10+; col. 5, lines 10+).

26. Claims 1 – 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Walach, referred to below as the reference, in view of US 2002/0104782 to DeWitt et al. The reference discloses a plurality of input feeding devices (P) each randomly receiving product from a stream of product; a plurality of output groups (N) each having a plurality of output bins; and a control system having a mode (120) which constrains the input feeding devices to (i) feeding non-rejected product to output bins of assigned output groups of the plurality of output groups associated with a corresponding one of the plurality of input feeding devices (col. 3, lines 46+; col. 4, lines 10+; col. 5, lines 38+). Walach does not disclose (ii) feeding rejected product to at least one output bin of the plurality of output bins in a single group accessible to any of the plurality of input feeders. De Witt discloses (ii) feeding rejected product to at least one output bin (250) of the plurality of output bins in a single group accessible to any of the plurality of input feeders (460) for the purpose of separating items which have been misread or partially read from those that have been properly processed (para 105).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to have modified Walach to include, feeding rejected product to at least one output bin (250) of the plurality of output bins in a single group accessible to

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any of the plurality of input feeders, as taught by DeWitt, for the purpose of separating items which have been misread or partially read from those that have been properly processed (para 105).

27. With regards to claim 2, DeWitt further discloses each of the plurality of input feeding devices (460) directs the rejected product from the stream of product to the at least one output bin (250) in the single group based on at least one of misreading or non-reading of a code associated with the rejected product and an operator or machine error (para 105), for the purpose of separating items which have been misread or partially read from those that have been properly processed (para 105).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to have modified Walach to include, each of the plurality of input feeding devices (460) directs the rejected product from the stream of product to the at least one output bin (250) in the single group based on at least one of misreading or non-reading of a code associated with the rejected product and an operator or machine error, as taught by DeWitt, for the purpose of separating items which have been misread or partially read from those that have been properly processed (para 105).

28. With regards to claim 3, the reference further discloses a number of the plurality of input feeding devices equals a number of the plurality of output groups (col. 3, lines 46+; col. 4, lines 10+; col. 5, lines 38+).

29. With regards to claim 4, DeWitt further discloses the at least one output bin is a single reject output bin (250).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of

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applicant's invention to have modified Walach to include, the at least one output bin is a single reject output bin (250), as taught by DeWitt, for the purpose of separating items which have been misread or partially read from those that have been properly processed (para 105).

30. With regards to claim 5, the combination of references further inherently discloses the single reject output bin increases a capacity of processing points for sequencing the product during a second pass phase in the plurality of output groups. A reject bin inherently increases the capacity of the apparatus, as undeliverable mail is removed from the system, thus freeing up capacity.

31. With regards to claim 6, DeWitt further discloses the single reject output bin is provided in a separate output group from the plurality of output groups (para 98 lines 13-14). The reject bin (250) is a separate entity from the stacker (300) and therefore the reject bin is inherently in a separate output group.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to have modified Walach to include, the single reject output bin is provided in a separate output group from the plurality of output groups, as taught by DeWitt, for the purpose of separating items which have been misread or partially read from those that have been properly processed (para 105).

32. With regards to claim 7, the reference further discloses the control system assigns each input feeding device to a respective one of the assigned output groups of the plurality of output group for feeding the non-rejected product during a second pass phase (col. 3, lines 46+; col. 4, lines 10+; col. 5, lines 38+).

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33. With regards to claim 8, the reference further discloses the control system constrains each input feeding device to the at least one output bin for feeding the rejected product during the second pass phase (col. 3, lines 46+; col. 4, lines 10+; col. 5, lines 38+).

34. With regards to claim 9, the reference further discloses the control system assigns each of the assigned output groups to a designated number of routes (col. 3, lines 46+; col. 4, lines 10+; col. 5, lines 38+).

35. With regards to claim 10, the reference further discloses the plurality of input feeding devices is at least two input feeding devices (col. 3, lines 46+; col. 4, lines 10+; col. 5, lines 38+).

36. With regards to claim 11, the reference further discloses the plurality of input feeding devices is four input feeding devices and the plurality of output groups is equal to a number of the plurality of input feeding devices (col. 3, lines 46+; col. 4, lines 10+; col. 5, lines 38+).

37. With regards to claim 12, the reference further discloses the control system provides the plurality of input feeding devices access to all of the plurality of output groups during a first pass phase of sorting the products (col. 3, lines 46+; col. 4, lines 10+; col. 5, lines 38+).

38. With regards to claim 13, the reference further discloses the plurality of input feeding devices is equal to a number of the plurality of output groups (col. 3, lines 46+; col. 4, lines 10+; col. 5, lines 38+).

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39. With regards to claim 14, the reference further discloses the product is mail pieces (col. 3, lines 46+; col. 4, lines 10+; col. 5, lines 38+).

40. With regards to claim 15, the reference further discloses providing a plurality of product from a stream of product to any of a plurality of input devices, feeding, in a first pass phase (120), each product of the plurality of product to output bins based on a code associated with each product of the plurality of product; assigning each input device of the plurality of input devices to a specific output group of the plurality of output groups for a second pass phase (130); feeding, in the second pass phase, non-rejected product of the plurality of product to the output bins of the specific output group assigned to the each input device which is feeding the non-rejected product; and feeding, (col. 3, lines 46+; col. 4, lines 10+; col. 5, lines 38+). Walach does not disclose feeding rejected product of the plurality of product to an output bin common and accessible to any of the input devices. DeWitt discloses feeding rejected product of the plurality of product to an output bin (250) common and accessible to any of the input devices (260 and para 105) for the purpose of separating items which have been misread or partially read from those that have been properly processed (para 105).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to have modified Walach to include, feeding rejected product of the plurality of product to an output bin (250) common and accessible to any of the input devices, as taught by DeWitt, for the purpose of separating items which have been misread or partially read from those that have been properly processed (para 105).

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41. With regards to claim 16, DeWitt further discloses the rejected product is based on one of a misreading or non-reading of a code associated with the rejected product and an operator error (para 105).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to have modified Walach to include, the rejected product is based on one of a misreading or non-reading of a code associated with the rejected product and an operator error, as taught by DeWitt, for the purpose of separating items which have been misread or partially read from those that have been properly processed (para 105).

42. With regards to claim 17, DeWitt further discloses the rejected products are fed by each input device of the plurality of input devices (460) to the commonly accessible output bin (250 and para 105) for the purpose of separating items which have been misread or partially read from those that have been properly processed (para 105).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to have modified Walach to include, the rejected products are fed by each input device of the plurality of input devices (460) to the commonly accessible output bin, as taught by DeWitt, for the purpose of separating items which have been misread or partially read from those that have been properly processed (para 105).

43. With regards to claim 18, the reference further discloses the step of determining whether the product is going through a first pass phase (120) or a second pass phase (130) and adjusting a control system between a first mode of operation and a second mode of operation, respectively (col. 3, lines 46+; col. 4, lines 10+; col. 5, lines 38+).

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44. With regards to claim 19, DeWitt further discloses the commonly accessible output bin (250) is one of the output bins (250, 300) of the specific output group and the any of the input devices are all of the input devices for the purpose of separating items which have been misread or partially read from those that have been properly processed (para 105).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to have modified Walach to include, the commonly accessible output bin (250) is one of the output bins (250, 300) of the specific output group and the any of the input devices are all of the input devices, as taught by DeWitt, for the purpose of separating items which have been misread or partially read from those that have been properly processed (para 105).

45. With regards to claim 20, the reference further discloses the product is mail pieces (col. 3, lines 46+; col. 4, lines 10+; col. 5, lines 38+).

46. With regards to claim 21, the reference further discloses means for providing a plurality of product from a stream of product; means for feeding each product of the plurality of product to output bins based on a code in a first pass phase (120) and second pass phase; means for assigning each feeding means to a specific output group of the plurality of output groups for the second pass phase; means for constraining, in the second pass phase (130), non-rejected product of the plurality of product to the output bins of the specific output group assigned to the each feeding means which is feeding the non-rejected product; and means for permitting, in the second pass phase (130 and col. 3, lines 46+; col. 4, lines 10+; col. 5, lines 38+). Walach does not disclose

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means for permitting rejected product of the plurality of product to an output bin common and accessible to any of the feeding means. DeWitt discloses disclose means for permitting rejected product of the plurality of product to an output bin (250) common and accessible to any of the feeding means (460 and para 105) for the purpose of separating items which have been misread or partially read from those that have been properly processed (para 105).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to have modified De Leo to include, means for permitting rejected product of the plurality of product to an output bin (250) common and accessible to any of the feeding means, as taught by DeWitt, for the purpose of separating items which have been misread or partially read from those that have been properly processed (para 105).

47. With regards to claim 22, the reference further discloses at least the means for constraining and the means for permitting is a control system operable in a first mode of operation and a second mode of operation (col. 3, lines 46+; col. 4, lines 10+; col. 5, lines 38+).

48. With regards to claim 23, the reference further discloses the product is mail pieces (col. 3, lines 46+; col. 4, lines 10+; col. 5, lines 38+).

Response to Arguments

49. Applicant's arguments filed 6-7-2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant states, "De Leo is completely silent as to output groups in the first pass phase." Examiner maintains that this is not true and that output groups are

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inherent in De Leo during the first pass phase as in fig 1 and fig 2 it can be seen that some bins after the first pass that only contain "a" items and other bins only contain "b" items. This relationship is maintained after the second pass.

50. Regarding the Walach reference applicant states, "Walach does not teach or suggest a plurality of input feeding devices each randomly receiving products from a stream of product." Examiner maintains that Walach discloses, a plurality of input feeding devices (10) each randomly receiving products from a stream of product (c9 lines 33-35).

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark Hageman whose telephone number is (571) 272-3027. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30-4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick Mackey can be reached on (571) 272-6916. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

MCH

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'PM', is positioned above the printed name and title.

PATRICK MACKEY
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600